

The Committee to Renew the Library receives letters and emails through its website. We have collected these comments and reproduced them here for the use of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. We hope you will find these public comments useful in your discussions.

From: webform@riversideblueribbon.com
Subject: **Riverside Blue Ribbon Feedback**
Date: April 21, 2008 1:24:32 PM PDT
To: webmaster@riversideblueribbon.com

name: Jerry Gordon

address:

city: Riverside

state: CA

zip: 92504

email:

comment: Perhaps more than others in our community I come in contact with many visitors to our beautiful city as they take my tour of the Mission Inn. It is my typical approach to learn where they are visiting from and to be turned into their comments of the Inn but particularly their impressions of Riverside. I am happy to report that the comments are typically quite positive and often preceded by their surprise of how great our city looks to them. We have this rare opportunity to encourage people to spend some time here which is not always so easy for other communities. There is a message here. Not only do we have something special but we need to do all we can to perpetuate the image into reality. Having an outstanding library and metropolitan museum is a major part of that. Cities are measured in many ways by visitors and local residents and one of those ways is the assessment of public resources. We cannot afford to do less than to be the best for our visitors and especially our residents. Let's maintain a great library and a great metropolitan museum. That is the least we can do.

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To whom it may concern:

I feel VERY strongly about the need to:

1. expand the library to meet the needs of Riverside in the 21st Century.
2. consider the Library needs and the Museum needs SEPARATELY. They are two totally different institutions and should NOT be combined. For this reason I believe there should be two task forces, not just one trying to make decisions about both institutions.
3. have a store on the GROUND floor. This would not only raise much more money for the library, but would also encourage more people to donate books.
4. have much more free parking made available. Some sort of system could be devised to ensure that these spaces were used by library patrons and NOT by people eating at the Mission Inn.
5. some "green" area preserved. This could be accomplished by building more floors up instead of just building out.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jo Turner

From:
Subject: **Powerpoint**
Date: May 14, 2008 7:24:30 PM PDT
To: Jeffrey Scherer <jeffrey@msrtd.com>
1 Attachment, 58.8 KB 

Hello Jeff

After some discussion at the last meeting of the Committee to Renew the Library, the group asked me to share with you our thoughts about your powerpoint presentation. While we appreciated your effort to undertake an analysis, with Stephanie Kingsnorth, of the plan Pfeiffer presented, we have a couple of observations.

First, the powerpoint looks at the following:
the existing library
new shared space
new space for the museum
new space for the library

This leaves out a very important part of the discussion, the existing Museum which is about to begin renovation (20,000 square feet) and the newly purchased and retrofitted storage and curation facility for the Museum (9,000 square feet). So without adding the Museum to the equation, the analysis of the facilities for both community institutions is incomplete.

In order to compare apples to apples, when we evaluate the plan we look at the new space.

I have attached a pdf of the relationships of Museum space, Library space, and Shared space in the new construction—47% of the new space is for the Museum, 24% is shared, and 29% is for the Library. They are the same figures from Stephanie's tables, with the inclusion of the Museum's "Flex Space" shown on the second floor drawings, but omitted from the tables.

We do concur with your observation that under the Pfeiffer proposal, tomorrow's Main Library would be 69,777 gross square feet compared to 60,113 gross square feet today.



[newspace.pdf \(58.8 KB\)](#)

Dawn Hassett
Geographics

New Space

Pfeiffer Plan

Shared

2,240	Lobby
3,570	Auditorium
600	Café
465	Youth Interactive
800	Conference
200	Conference
7,875	Shared Net
* 1.43	Net to Gross Factor
11,261	Shared Gross

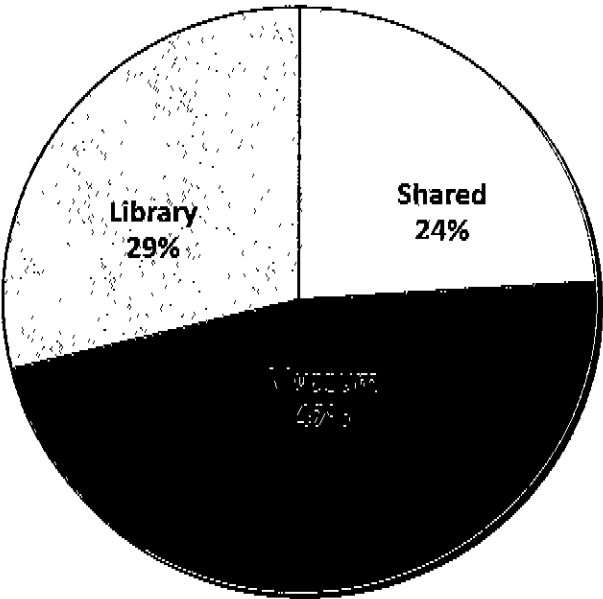
Museum

8,000	Exhibit
1,500	Storage
2,000	Special Collections
1,200	Child Interactive
400	Gift Shop
1,240	Museum Support
1,200	Flex Space
15,540	Museum Net
* 1.43	Net to Gross Factor
22,222	Museum Gross

Library

9,521	Childrens Net
* 1.43	Net to Gross Factor
13,615	Museum Gross

32,936	Total New Space Net
* 1.43	Net to Gross Factor
47,098	Total New Space Gross



From: "Jean Huffman Wong"
Subject: **Letter to Blue Ribbon Task Force/4-21-08**
Date: April 21, 2008 5:24:21 PM PDT
To: <geographics@earthlink.net>

To: Blue Ribbon Task Force

The City Manager has finessed a promised 25 million dollar Main Library Expansion into a joint Library/Museum project featuring an Exhibition Hall – to be built on Library property – that will be 20 feet in height to accommodate a popular temporary travelling T-Rex Dinosaur exhibit. This space has been described as a facility that can be shared by both institutions, but the needs of the Main Library will not be met with this space. This is not a professional approach to solving the space needs of both institutions. This is NOT planning from the inside out.

The Task Force should investigate the 1990 plan for the Museum expansion to the rear of their existing building. This would give them exhibit space both for travelling and their own collection exhibits.

The needs of the Library and the needs of the Museum are quite different. The January 16, 2008 public meeting of 300+ attendees almost unanimously indicated that they want 2 separately funded projects.

The Committee to Renew the Library has produced 2 professional and thoughtful publications for the Task Force to consider. They are "Why Main Libraries?" and "Executive Summary for the Blue Ribbon Task Force". I hope the Task Force will respond to these reports in a thoughtful manner.

I can also envision a "shared space" concept that could be feasible, and perhaps wonderful. Make Mission Inn Avenue a Pedestrian Mall from Lime to Orange == creating a "City Arts Civic Center Block" (bounded by University and 6th) – that includes – not separates – The Riverside Art Museum, the Municipal Auditorium, 2 beautiful church buildings, the Main Public Library, the Metropolitan Museum, and adequate deck parking at Lime.

As we all have been saying – this is the ONLY chance we have to meet our needs for the next 30-40 years. It's time to think from the inside out.

Jean Wong/Resident of Ward One

Jean H. Wong is a retired Librarian, a Volunteer with the Friends of the Library Book Sale, and a member of the Riverside Museum Associates

Riverside is a big city and definitely needs an expanded Main Library as an essential service for its large population. This project should be a "Jewel in the Crown" of the Riverside Renaissance. It must be approved. , Esther Hays,M.D, Daniel Hays.M.D.

Esther J. Hays

From: webform@riversideblueribbon.com
Subject: **Riverside Blue Ribbon Feedback**
Date: April 14, 2008 10:36:43 AM PDT
To: webmaster@riversideblueribbon.com

name: Greg Taber, P.E.

address:

city: Riverside

state: CA

zip: -----

email:

comment: A new, twenty-first century Central Library should be built on the city owned property that is slated for development adjacent to Fairmont Park.

After that construction is complete, and the library is functioning, take the present library building at Mission Inn Ave and Lemon, and renovate it to be the Museum Building (perhaps the library local history collection, with the overlap of an archival function, could remain).

After that construction is complete, renovate the present museum building to be a branch library.

This approach has several advantages:

The Library construction would be a blank canvass, allowing for up to date services to be installed.

There would be a synergy developed with the park.

The park location offers good freeway access for a regional library.

The present village square feeling of the present plaza area would be maintained.

Commitments made to the community regarding the pagoda would be honored.

There would be a minimum of structural alterations; finite resources would be expended most efficiently.

There would be no interruption of services as the functions are moved from building to building.

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From: webform@riversideblueribbon.com
Subject: **Riverside Blue Ribbon Feedback**
Date: April 11, 2008 4:38:57 PM PDT
To: webmaster@riversideblueribbon.com

name: Robert Mease
address:
city: Riverside
state: CA
zip:
email:

comment: I have been a resident of Riverside for more than 40 years and my wife is a virtual native. We are not intimately knowledgeable of the day to day running of either the museum or library and we leave comments about the planning of the functional aspects of those facilities to the "experts." Nevertheless, we are very much interested in how the library/museum environs is physically developed. Previous conceptual schematics of the proposed new facility appear to largely eliminate the landscaped plaza in front of the current library and perhaps ignore the unique architectural setting of the site. We would suggest retaining the front plaza along Mission Inn Avenue and instead provide needed additional square footage by expanding the existing building or buildings to the rear and/or sides as well as raise their height. While architecture need not exactly copy adjacent buildings such as old City Hall and the Mission Inn, it should strongly reflect that heritage. While could be a significant element in the overall Riverside Renaissance effort. Coincidentally while now largely forgotten a plan for the area was commissioned by the City in 1929. The Charles Chaney Civic Center plan is on file in the library and depicts an outstanding vision for the library and its surrounding--this at a time when the much loved Carnegie library was still in existence. That plan appears to lean in the right direction even today. No matter what, it would be a great mistake for the new library building to aesthetically fail to reflect the taste and detail of Riverside most important concentration of heritage buildings. If there is anyone who likes the look of the present library building, we have yet to meet them.

frmSubmit: Submit

April 17, 2008

C/O Renew the Library Committee
4178 Chestnut Street
Riverside, CA 92501


Dear Judith and Committee:

I hear that that at the Friday meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee the Council still was promoting the architect's blueprints including an exhibit hall with room for T-Rex. I foolishly thought that idea was off the table after the big meeting in the Council Chambers.

Has anyone asked the costs of hosting one of these exhibits? My son works for a museum in Balboa Park, and I know that there is much more involved than the cost of rental – special physical preparations, security guards and the like. It seems a possible point of argument, and I would think that our museum, or the San Bernardino County Museum (which does, I think, have traveling exhibits) would be able to give you some facts and figures.

I certainly am opposed to the idea of a Brad Hudson Exhibit Hall, with the obvious needs of the library and museum taking second place in their plans. I am beginning to wonder if the City Council can indeed ride roughshod over the wishes of its constituents.

Supportively,



Ruthe Melli

From: "Edith Quevedo" <
Subject: Blue Ribbon Task Force memo
Date: April 18, 2008 9:38:29 AM PDT
To: <geographics@earthlink.net>
Cc: "

y

Dawn: I am sending this to you as e-mail. If you prefer I can prepare letterhead but am not so quick at that anymore.

To: Blue Ribbon Task Force

Is the Main Library so unappreciated by the governing body of this city that little Fontana can put us to shame? Fontana is telling the Inland Empire it truly values the unique contribution of a Main Library as an educational and cultural institution by celebrating the opening on Saturday of a 65 million dollar building. Fontana is a little town!

Riverside is fondly portrayed as the big City of the Inland Empire -- the City of the Arts. The Main Library serves the public in an architecturally uninspired building with inadequate space to carry out functions vital to an ever-demanding citizenry. The people of Riverside know that our Main Library is an institution of learning and historically critical to the reading public. They know the benefits of this institution - what it offers in terms of not only books for pleasure reading, but what it offers to the curious who need the research and reference material, the cultural programs offered, the joy of children in contact with their very own librarian who helps them explore new worlds through story-telling; proudly going home with a treasure -- a book -- understanding that another treasure will be available and all to be shared with other children.

The intermediate and high school student depends on library resources for successful completion of coursework as well as an added benefit of mingling with other students in a safe environment with understanding and caring adults.


And those of us who have spent a lifetime reading, learning, researching as we pressed on with our advanced educational and professional goals; we could not have accomplished such goals without resources of a Main Library. This is a venerable institution and needs to be preserved as such.

And why shortchange the Museum? Riverside is not a backwater poverty-stricken town. The Metropolitan Museum is housed in an architecturally interesting building very much in keeping with this historic area. It needs expansion and appropriate resources to carry out the essential mandate to educate and inform - to pique curiosity concerning our history as a people, and to honor our past and those who have preceded us. As with librarians, museum researchers understand what is needed and how best to implement their vision.

As a user of Main Libraries and Museums of Natural History as well as Art museums of many varieties throughout my long life (I am an octogenarian as well as a retired professor) I would suggest that it is imprudent for the city government to force a package deal. This was put forward without proper public input. I find that a matter of great concern.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Edith S. Quevedo

From:
Subject: **RENEW THE LIBRARY – COMMENTS AND MATERIAL**
Date: April 14, 2008 1:07:06 PM PDT
To: Renew The Library <news@renewthelibrary.org>
1 Attachment, 84.5 KB 

April 14, 2008

Judith Auth, President
Committee to Renew the Library
4178 Chestnut Street
Riverside, California

Dear Juth,

First I thank you very much for taking on this project. I was terribly bothered by the autocratic we-know-best efforts to push the City plan to remodel the Library. I am very happy that you intervened and got the project redirected. I spend most of my time in Idyllwild, but was for many years a resident of Riverside. Because my daughter and her family live in Riverside and I own business property in the downtown, I am still deeply interested in Riverside and in particular its Library. Below are two letters which I wrote the Press Enterprise last year. The first was published and got considerable response from other letter writers and from Dan Bernstein. Dan's column is copied below.

Please understand that when you write a letter to the Press Enterprise with any hope of getting it published you must be brief and crudely provocative. Thus my letter reflects an unreasonableness that does not represent my true appreciation as to the difficulty and complexity of the problem.

Thus I really share the idea that it would be very desirable if the library could be rebuilt at its present location. But after considerable thought I have come to believe that the best option is to consider its relocation. The required space, the need for parking and the architectural constraints of being compatible especially as to height and style.

I hope that you will at least include the idea of a relocation as an option.

My sincerest wishes for the success of the BlueRibbon Committee.

Loftus Tackaberry
Riverside and Idyllwild

Letter to PE published in July 2007:

I congratulate the City on its decision to rehab the Downtown Library Building. Its current "1960 curtain of concrete" facade is an out of place blight in the area and its unfortunate placement on the center of the site produced a large open, hot and unfriendly entrance. Isn't now the time to consider moving the Library to a larger area away from the downtown congestion and space constraints? Why not a new building just across the Freeway on University Avenue? The Redevelopment Agency already owns this property. Make it large enough to serve as a central headquarters and repository with adequate and accessible free parking. Located there it would revitalize this neglected area and serve as a community center to the Eastside. Make it a show place entrance to the Downtown and a bridge to the University Village developments. Sell off the current site or adopt it to other use." /s/ LT

Second letter to PE (not published):

Last week when I suggested relocating the Riverside Library to a downtown location on University Avenue approximated 1/3 mile to the west opposite the "Downtown" Metro Link Terminal. It would still be "Downtown." Some seem to have forgotten that the primary purpose of a library is to serve its patrons with books, computer and research material, not to "draw out of town visitors" nor to be a mystical symbol of Riverside's values towards "art, culture and education." Nor should it be a icon of the "Riverside Renaissance" hype.

To achieve its primary function to the citizens and students of Riverside, it must provide adequate accessibility including free parking. The City Hall and the Police Department once were across the street – but they moved away.

Moving the library would make it accessible to high school students (Poly and North).

I suppose that one argument for staying is that the library provides the city's only "public restroom facility." /s/ LT

I include below a copy of Bernstein column. I believe that he is a active library user and his views and influence are important It should be part of your considerations.

COLUMN IN THE PRESS ENTERPRISE:

OVERDUE NOTICE

10:00 PM PDT on Monday, July 2, 2007

DAN BERNSTEIN

Mr. Loftus Tackaberry does have a point about Riverside's Main Library.

"Isn't now the time to consider moving the library to a larger area away from downtown congestion and space constraints?"

Tackaberry wrote those words in a letter to the editor last month. Ever since, a trickle of letter writers has backed him. Ever since, I've been whacking my forehead. Why hasn't anyone else (including me) suggested this?

"I suggested it," Riverside Councilman Andy Melendrez told me a few days ago. "It fell like a lead balloon."

Seems Melendrez and Tackaberry were on the same page. The councilman's ward includes the notorious and historically snubbed University Avenue. A library on this drag, wrote Tackaberry, "would revitalize this neglected area and serve as a community center for the Eastside. Make it a showplace entrance to our downtown and a bridge to the University Village developments."

Melendrez floated his balloon as a newish councilman. "Unfortunately, people had already committed to see it (Old Main) developed in its current spot."

The commitment solidified in April when the City Council inked a \$2.2 million contract with reputable LA architects to design and manage construction of a \$25 million expansion that would create more library space, swallow the muni museum (now across the street) and maybe include a 200-seat lecture hall. The addition could reach 40K square feet. The existing library (60K square feet) would be remodeled. No word about parking.

If the city goes through with this plan, it won't be the best Riverside can do. The old library is a tear-down, and it's time to tear it down.

It is such a dreary, sterile, windowless, oppressive Eastern Bloc Nouveau structure. It's an architectural blunder that does not deserve to be part of Riverside's self-reinvention. It has earned the right to be bulldozed. If it isn't, future Riversiders will look at the expansion tacked onto the remodel and conclude, rightly, "Too bad they settled. Too bad they didn't think big."

If there's one thing this council and the city manager aren't known for, it's thinking small. Even at \$25 million, the library project could be the exception.

There's nothing magic about a library downtown. A University Avenue location, as Mr. Tackaberry noted, could give Riverside a spacious library -- with plenty of free parking and no PAY HERE boxes -- in an area that is getting more city attention, but still hasn't completely severed ties with the drugs 'n' hookers economy.

Moving the library would open up a prime patch of downtown real estate. The city could afford to be rather picky about who buys it and what goes on it. But suppose there is no suitable place to move the Main Library. It doesn't follow that what's there now should be saved. Why not give the architect and builder a chance to start from scratch? It might even turn out to be cheaper.

Riverside has a very good library system. A habitual user, I will attest that this library and the people who work there serve citizens well. It is an operation that deserves a building worthy of its collections, staff, computers and, yes, even its new coffee culture. And Riversiders deserve a library worthy of themselves, not a permanently enshrined embarrassment



Library LT le...oc (84.5 KB)

name: John P. Nyhan
address:
city: Riverside
state: CA
zip: -----'

email: |

comment:

From: "\"JOHN NYHAN\" <

> [View Contact Details](#)

Add Mobile Alert

Subject: Re: Riverside Public Library Events Update

To: "\"City of Riverside\" <cariverside@govdelivery.com>

CANDY(Create A Nice Day Youall),

Although not a direct response to your up date, I would like to comment on the decisions being made to remodel the Downtown Library. It is my opinion, that the current structure ought to be abandoned and converted for an existing City Department or leased or sold to a commercial entity to preserve its architectural identity.

With the economics realized, and an anticipated expenditure for remodeling and some additional investment a new more modern and larger structure would be built.

Potential site might be north of REID park or between the Fairmount Park American Legion Hall and the Santa Ana River or as part of the development of the Tequesquite Park property.

As part of this development, a more grandiose project might be considered comparable to an EXPO atmosphere where structures like the Museum, pedestrian and biking trails, adequate parking, shuttle transportation to the Downtown area and comfortable landscaping comparable to Fairmount Park would be considered.

In other words, a NEW VISION rather than a modification should be considered.

Economically, it might actually be more effective.

OAR(Our Admiring Respect)

name: John P. Nyhan
address:
city: Riverside
state: CA
zip: |

email: |

comment:

Sent: Wed 12/19/2007 6:46 PM

To: Gardner, Mike; Shirley Hanagan
Subject: Fwd: \"OVER DUE NOTICE\"

CANDY(Create A Nice Day Youall),

It is my opinion that an EXPO philosophy should be taken with respect to the LIBRARY and MUSEUM expansions.

What does that mean ?

Instead of spending a substantial amount of money in expanding facilities that are essentially PARKINGLESS BOUND; why not think of building at a new location that could become the center of all LIBRARY,ART, SCIENCE, and ENTERTAINMENT requirements that would have adequate parking as well as walking, biking, and picnicking facilities in a comfortably and beautifully landscaped location(perhaps ala the Grant Park, Aquarium, Planetarium, and Museum of Art in the Chicago, IL area)

OAR(Our Admiring Respect)

name: John P. Nyhan

address:

city: Riverside

state: CA

zip:

email: -----

comment: CANDY(Create A Nice Day Youall),

As a follow up to the two emails already submitted, may I suggest another possible location ?

That location would be between REID PARK and the AB BROWN SOCCER FIELDS.

OAR(Our Admiring Respect)

Date: Tue, 3 Jul 2007 15:20:50 -0700 (PDT)

From: \"JOHN NYHAN\" <mijohnisabpat@yahoo.com>

Subject: \"OVER DUE NOTICE\"

To: \"Dan Bernstein\" <dbernstein@PE.com>, \"John P. Nyhan\" <mijohnisabpat@yahoo.com>

HTML Attachment [Scan and Save to Computer]

Your article on Page B1 of the 07/03/07 P/E elicits an endorsement from yours truly.

I am not sure whether or not you are familiar with the CADME Map Book and Directory.

My endorsement comes with a few disclaimers.

Instead of University Avenue as a new site, I visualize a new site out in a more natural setting.

Therefore, CADME Page 24, Sections 1 & 3 show some open space between Buena Vista Avenue and Market Street along the Santa Ana River that strikes me as an interesting potential location.

A Santa Ana River and Mount Rubidoux view and a new natural beautifully landscaped and spacious area to be developed.

Another possibility would be CADME Page 38, Section 2 "TEQUES-QUITE PARK".

Each of these locations offer an opportunity for some interesting "BRAINSTORMING" and opportunistic "CHALLENGES" for the PUBLIC WORKS, PLANNING , and the PARK and RECREATION DEPARTMENTS.

To me, surrounding a LIBRARY with an ambiance of a Park and its fields and potential shared parking facilities suggests a potentially rich combination.

What say ye?????????

OAR(Our Admiring Respect)
frmSubmit: Submit

OPTION C

Raincross

Dr. Moore

1. Library and Museum expand separately
 - a. Library 40K-60K sq ft in front of current bldg
 - (1) Chinese Pavilion preserved as is.
 - (2) 10K± joint exhibit space for joint lib-museum-art-special
 - b. Museum expands 30K sq ft to include primary traveling exhibition space
 - c. Auditorium in expanded library for joint public & institutions use
 - d. Smaller meeting rooms distributed btwn expansions
2. Library expansion is designed primarily as service hub, with branch model aspects as determined by demographics & service needs
See library answers - to questions document
3. Library & Museum, Art Museum, and other entities and institutions enter joint projects and perhaps outline formal agreements on an opportunity basis.
 - a. Joint cooperation on annual or 2-yr outline schedule for coordinated/cooperative exhibits & programs.
 - b. Exhibits and programs are a mixture of distributed (branches) and central (Downtown arts and cultural core)
4. Finance as unitary, overall library & museum project

5. Parking per Raincross

TIM KLUG 951-206-4407

TERMITE TENT COVERS THE MISSION INN
The large termite tenting before restoration took sev-
eral companies in order to get enough of the tents to
complete the job.

Photo by Fred Bauman

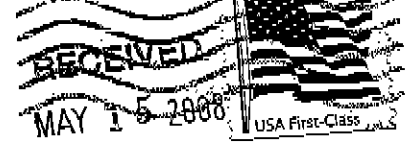
Jeffrey - Riverside
raised between \$75,000,000
and \$100,000,000 to
save a falling down
National Historic Landmark.
I'm confident we have
the wherewithal as a
community to do right
by both our museum
and main public library
long neglected for more
than four decades!

John Brown

Printed by RB Graphics
Riverside, CA

05/12/08
12 MAY 2008 PM 4
RIVERSIDE, CA 92541

THE MISSION INN - A National Historic Landmark



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